



# STATE OF CONNECTICUT

## DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH

TO: Public Water System Owners  
Certified Chief Operators

FROM: Lori Mathieu, Chief  
Drinking Water Section

David Cooley, P.E., Supervising Sanitary Engineer  
Drinking Water Section

DATE: August 24, 2011

SUBJECT: Hurricane Irene

The latest weather forecasts are predicting Hurricane Irene to begin tracking northeast along the Atlantic coast on Thursday, August 25, 2011. Forecasts estimate the hurricane to be off the coast of Long Island and southeastern New England Sunday evening as a Category 1 hurricane. Hurricanes pose obvious threats to public water systems including flooding, power outages and wind damage. The Connecticut Department of Public Health would like to encourage you to adhere to the alerts provided by the National Weather Service, <http://www.nws.noaa.gov/>, and refer you to helpful documents and other resources to assist you in preparation and response to a potential severe weather event.

The Department encourages all public water systems to report any flooding, power outage or storm damage that is threatening water supply operations and other water system facilities to the Department and the local Director of Health as soon as possible. It is recommended that all public water systems impacted closely monitor disinfection treatment operation and consider issuing a boil water notice to consumers if any treatment facility, storage tank or source of supply has been flooded. Prior to issuing any notice to consumers, contact the Department of Public Health –Drinking Water Section at 860-509-7333 during business hours (8:00AM – 4:30PM) or 860-509-8000 after hours.

Please see the attached Flood and Storm Water Advisory for Public Water Systems, which is also available at the following link:

[http://www.ct.gov/dph/lib/dph/drinking\\_water/pdf/PWS\\_Flooding\\_Advisory\\_Document\\_6\\_06.pdf](http://www.ct.gov/dph/lib/dph/drinking_water/pdf/PWS_Flooding_Advisory_Document_6_06.pdf)

Also attached, please see the Environmental Protection Agency's generator guidance for water and wastewater systems. This document can also be found at the following link:

<http://www.epa.gov/region01/eco/drinkwater/pdfs/WaterWastewaterSystemGeneratorPreparedness.pdf>

Public water systems operating dam structures should adhere to their dam safety plans and notify the Department of Public Health and the Department of Environmental Protection as required.

An excellent way to increase the level of resources available to your water system is to join CtWARN – Connecticut's Water/Wastewater Agency Response Network. CtWARN offers a network of mutual aid and assistance between utilities based on a national model tested during the worst California wildfires and Florida hurricanes. The network is free to join and requires no commitment of resources unless you decide to assist. Go to [www.ctwarn.org](http://www.ctwarn.org) for more information.

cc: Local DOHs  
Ellen Blaschinski, Branch Chief, Regulatory Services



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